

**California Biodiversity Council**  
**Local Group Forum: Financing Ecosystem Management**

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**Presentations:**

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**Key Issues and Concepts:**

- treat open space as infrastructure
- pay attention to small property owner; provide compensation [related to the comment that larger land holdings are relatively easier to include in HCPs]
- recognize deficiencies in county general plans, (e.g., National Forest in-holdings have been zoned as residential)
- need statewide growth management
- programs will fail without state and federal money
- recognize importance of RCDs and RC&D areas
- improve and strengthen Williamson Act
- timing is essential; need to resolve some issues ASAP
- identify what is financially realistic today

**Specific Suggestions and Sources of Funding**

- create Public Mitigation Districts
- establish Environmental Crediting Districts (e.g., New York State's)
- use federal tax credit scheme (that would be transferable) to generate funding
- real estate transfer fees could be used to generate funds (refer to PCL's recent document identifying funding sources)

- identify problem with inheritance/estate taxes
- \$2.5 billion available for lands 60 miles from Mexican border, via the BECC (Border Environmental Cooperation Commission) and NAD Bank (North American Development Bank); (CA not showing up for meetings)
- need a state-federal-local task force that looks into NAFTA's environmental funding opportunities
- use public land (TNC, TPL) trust programs to implement plans at lower cost
- transferable development credits useful technique that delivers equity
- life tenancy : offer freedom from property taxes for enrolled lands
- garbage tax
- impose fees for recreation use (bike, horseback, hiking)
- \$1.00 per vehicle registration fee (with additions for each county)
- free up Land and Water Conservation Trust Funds